

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.     A method of accessing a subject multi-dimensional database stored on a data store  
2 connected to a computer, comprising:  
3           creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database, wherein the index comprises  
4 another multi-dimensional database; and  
5           accessing the subject multi-dimensional database using the index.
- 1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the index comprises a multi-dimensional database  
2 that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.
- 1           3.     The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying features in the subject multi-  
2 dimensional database.
- 1           4.     The method of claim 3, further comprising collecting parameter values for  
2 retrieving data from the subject multi-dimensional database to be used when identifying features.
- 1           5.     The method of claim 3, wherein identifying features comprises generating an  
2 ordered list of multi-dimensional points.
- 1           6.     The method of claim 5, wherein the ordered list of multi-dimensional points is  
2 stored in a spreadsheet data file.
- 1           7.     The method of claim 5, further comprising creating the index using the list of  
2 multi-dimensional points.
- 1           8.     The method of claim 3, wherein identifying features comprises generating  
2 additional information.
- 1           9.     The method of claim 8, further comprising storing the additional information as  
2 one or more linked reporting objects.

1           10. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject multi-dimensional database comprises  
2 dimensions and members.

1            11.    The method of claim 10, wherein the index comprises the dimensions of the subject  
2    multi-dimensional database.

1            12.    The method of claim 11, wherein the index comprises an additional ranking  
2    dimension.

1            13.    The method of claim 12, further comprising mapping the dimensions of the subject  
2 multi-dimensional database to the index, while mapping out the ranking dimension.

1            14.    The method of claim 11, wherein the index comprises a dimension having a  
2    member representing one or more deviations.

1            15.    The method of claim 14, further comprising mapping the member representing a  
2 deviation to a member of the subject multi-dimensional database.

1           16.    The method of claim 1, further comprising linking the index to the subject multi-  
2   dimensional database.

1 17. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a spreadsheet from the  
2 index.

1           18.    The method of claim 17, further comprising accessing the subject multi-  
2   dimensional database with the spreadsheet.

1            19.    An apparatus for accessing a subject multi-dimensional database, comprising:  
2            a computer having a data store coupled thereto, wherein the data store stores a subject  
3            multi-dimensional database;

4 one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for creating an index for the  
5 subject multi-dimensional database, wherein the index comprises another multi-dimensional  
6 database and for accessing the subject multi-dimensional database using the index.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the index comprises a multi-dimensional  
2 database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising identifying features in the subject  
2 multi-dimensional database.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising collecting parameter values for  
2 retrieving data from the subject multi-dimensional database to be used when identifying features.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein identifying features comprises generating an  
2 ordered list of multi-dimensional points.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the ordered list of multi-dimensional points is  
2 stored in a spreadsheet data file.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising creating the index using the list of  
2 multi-dimensional points.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein identifying features comprises generating  
2 additional information.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising storing the additional information  
2 as one or more linked reporting objects.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the subject multi-dimensional database  
2 comprises dimensions and members.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the index comprises the dimensions of the  
2 subject multi-dimensional database.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the index comprises an additional ranking  
2 dimension.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising mapping the dimensions of the  
2 subject multi-dimensional database to the index, while mapping out the ranking dimension.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the index comprises a dimension having a  
2 member representing one or more deviations.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising mapping the member representing  
2 a deviation to a member of the subject multi-dimensional database.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising linking the index to the subject  
2 multi-dimensional database.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising creating a spreadsheet from the  
2 index.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising accessing the subject multi-  
2 dimensional database with the spreadsheet.

1 37. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a  
2 computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to access a subject  
3 multi-dimensional database stored on a data store connected to the computer, comprising:  
4 creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database, wherein the index comprises  
5 another multi-dimensional database; and  
6 accessing the subject multi-dimensional database using the index.

1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 37, wherein the index comprises a multi-  
2 dimensional database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 37, further comprising identifying features in  
2 the subject multi-dimensional database.

1 40. The article of manufacture of claim 39, further comprising collecting parameter  
2 values for retrieving data from the subject multi-dimensional database to be used when identifying  
3 features.

1 41. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein identifying features comprises  
2 generating an ordered list of multi-dimensional points.

1 42. The article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein the ordered list of multi-  
2 dimensional points is stored in a spreadsheet data file.

1 43. The article of manufacture of claim 41, further comprising creating the index using  
2 the list of multi-dimensional points.

1 44. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein identifying features comprises  
2 generating additional information.

1 45. The article of manufacture of claim 44, further comprising storing the additional  
2 information as one or more linked reporting objects.

1 46. The article of manufacture of claim 37, wherein the subject multi-dimensional  
2 database comprises dimensions and members.

1 47. The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the index comprises the  
2 dimensions of the subject multi-dimensional database.

1 48. The article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein the index comprises an additional  
2 ranking dimension.

1 49. The article of manufacture of claim 48, further comprising mapping the dimensions  
2 of the subject multi-dimensional database to the index, while mapping out the ranking dimension.

1 50. The article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein the index comprises a dimension  
2 having a member representing one or more deviations.

1 51. The article of manufacture of claim 50, further comprising mapping the member  
2 representing a deviation to a member of the subject multi-dimensional database.

1 52. The article of manufacture of claim 37, further comprising linking the index to the  
2 subject multi-dimensional database.

1 53. The article of manufacture of claim 37, further comprising creating a spreadsheet  
2 from the index.

1 54. The article of manufacture of claim 53, further comprising accessing the subject  
2 multi-dimensional database with the spreadsheet.

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